



April 24, 2003

The Honorable Terrance Duncan, Presiding Judge  
Monterey County Grand Jury  
P. O. Box 414  
Salinas, CA 93902

Honorable Judge Duncan:

This letter is in response to the 2002 Civil Grand Jury recommendation to introduce therapeutic levels of fluoridation throughout the County as soon as practicable. The City of Soledad has considered this matter and has made the following determinations:

Benefits derived from fluoridation overcome investment cost from the perspective of public policy. Moreover, the practical aspects of adding fluoridation treatment to the City of Soledad drinking water system at this time would impose financial burden upon the City's customers.

California Health and Safety Code Sections 116410 and 116415 prescribe a reasonable effort be made to fluoridate all drinking water systems with 10,000 or more service connections. The City of Soledad only has approximately 4,000 service connections.

Adding fluoridation treatment to the City's drinking water system, at this time, would impose a financial burden upon the City's customers unless outside sources provided the required funding. Maintaining appropriate fluoridation levels throughout the City's integrated distribution system would require higher levels of certification from our staff as well as any salary cost increases therefore making cost prohibitive to do.

Furthermore, the City is also not aware of any outside sources that are prepared to provide both the cost of implementation and the on-going additional costs associated with operation and maintenance of a safe, reliable fluoridation component to the City's drinking water system.

For the above reasons, the City of Soledad is not giving further consideration to implementing fluoridation of its drinking water system at this time.

Sincerely,

Raymond L. Smith  
Superintendent of Utilities

c: Noelia Chapa  
City Manager